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DOCKING
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1956

to which is appended the

REPORT of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and the

REPORT

of the

WATERWORKS SUPERINTENDENT



DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

W.H. CRICHTON, C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

W.B. JENKINS, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

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P.F. BROOKS, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

Clerk (part time)

MISS N.H. FULL.

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Committee

1956

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Vice-Chairman - Col. G.H. Winter.

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PART I

- General -(1) Staff -

I took over my duties as Medical Officer of Health of the Docking Rural District Council on 1st August on Dr. Coutts Milne's resignation. My personal knowledge and experience of the public health circumstances of the District is therefore confined to the second half of the year reviewed in this report. There were no other changes in the staff of the Health Department, a fortunate circumstance in view of the fact that, in this "combined" appointment, my duties as Assistant County Medical Officer for the Area, take up the greater part of my time and I can therefore only devote a relatively small fraction of the time to my duties as Medical Officer of Health of the District. In these circumstances, the execution of my statutory duties, particularly in the sphere of housing, food, water and environmental hygiene, must necessarily depend on the officers of the Health Department of the Council. I am happy to record my appreciation for the assistance and co-operation they have invariably given to me.

(2) Area and Population of the District -

The District, which covers 87,386 acres and 30 parishes, has suffered no change in extent or character.

The population of the District has been estimated by the Registrar General at 17,400 for the mid year 1956 which is 40 less than the estimated population for the preceding year and 50 less than the census year population of 1951. The average annual population during the last quinquennium is 17,350.

The Rateable value of the District is £132,903

The estimated product of the ld. rate (1956-57) is £538

(3) Meteorological Factors -

The data which have been furnished to me by courtesy of the Air Ministry Meteorological Office are based on observations at the R.A.F. Station at West Raynham. Although these cannot be accurately applied to all parts of the District, they serve, in the absence of other observations, to give some indication of the climatic conditions which prevailed and the effect which these may have had on the health of the District. The data are summarised as Appendix A. (page 8).

The summer of 1956 was one of the worst on record. It will be noted that the rainfall during the summer months - June, July, and August - was higher than that recorded at any other time of the year. The highest reading was 3.7 inches in August and the total rainfall for the year was 26.17 inches. The relative humidity under these conditions remained at high level throughout the year and particularly so in the improved weather conditions which prevailed during the Autumn and early winter. Temperatures, as might be expected, were not high in the summer, the highest mean daily temperature recorded being 59.9°F in July. On the other hand, temperatures were not exceptionally low in the winter months at either end of the year. The Spring was perfect. Under these conditions, colds and snuffles among children tended to persist, holidays were ruined and spirits generally were depressed.

- Vital Statistics -

(1) Births - The Registrar General's figures for births and still births occurring in the District during the year are as follows:-

(a) Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	161 (173)	165 (142)	326 (315)
Illegitimate	7 (9)	13 (11)	20 (20)
	<u>168 (182)</u>	<u>178 (153)</u>	<u>346 (335)</u>

(b) Still Births

Legitimate	1 (3)	2 (2)	3 (5)
Illegitimate	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
	<u>1 (3)</u>	<u>3 (2)</u>	<u>4 (5)</u>

* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

These figures represent a Crude Birth Rate of 19.87 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 19.2 per 1,000 in the preceding year (1955), and an average of 17.34 per 1,000 in the last quinquennium. It is interesting to note that contrary to the prevailing trend there has been a steady increase in the birth rate since 1951 when it was 15.87 per 1,000. Thus:-

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
15.87	16.67	17.14	18.05	19.01	19.87

There can be little doubt that this increase has been influenced by the advent of the considerable number of U.S.A.F. families in the District since 1951.

The corrected birth rate, after application of the comparability factor (1.11) is 22.05 as compared with 21.3 in the preceding year and 15.7 for the whole of England and Wales.

The still birth rate is 14.2 per 1,000 total births as against 14.7 in 1955 and 23.0 per 1,000 in England and Wales.

The illegitimate rate is 57 per 1,000 live births, 59 per 1,000 live births in 1955 and as compared with 46 per 1,000 live births for England and Wales.

(2) Deaths -

(a) The number of deaths at all ages recorded by the Registrar General was as follows:-

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
104 (104)	116 (94)	220 (198)

This represents a crude death rate per 1,000 of population of 12.6 as against 11.35 in 1955 and an average of 12.11 per 1,000 over the last quinquennium.

Application of the comparability factor (0.82) makes the adjusted death rate 10.36 per 1,000 which compares favourably with the all of England and Wales rate of 11.7.

(b) The Causes of Death as recorded in the Registrar General's statement are shown in Appendix B (page 9) with an added column showing the figures for the preceding year. It will be noted that there is no significant difference in any of the main groupings of causes of death but it is interesting that the number of deaths from cancer of the lungs and bronchi has doubled since last year and that they all occurred among males.

(c) Deaths by Age Groups - The following table of deaths by age groups is compiled from the monthly records received from the Local Registrar's office.

Deaths by Age Groups.

Age Groups	Males	Females	Totals.
Under 1 yr.	1 (6)	2 (3)	3 (9)
- 5	2 (-)	1 (-)	3 (-)
- 10	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
- 20	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
- 30	1 (-)	- (1)	1 (1)
- 40	2 (-)	2 (1)	4 (1)
- 50	2 (1)	2 (1)	4 (2)
- 60	11 (8)	5 (5)	16 (13)
- 70	32 (12)	24 (21)	56 (33)
- 80	28 (38)	35 (33)	63 (71)
- 90	21 (29)	38 (23)	59 (52)
- 100	4 (4)	7 (7)	11 (11)
Totals	104 (99)	116 (95)	220 (194)

Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

It will be noted that only 3 infant deaths have been notified as against the Registrar General's figure of 4. This analysis suggests that females survive to a greater age than males. There is no significant difference between the age grouping of deaths in 1956 and in the preceding year.

(3) Infant Mortality

The Registrar General's return refers to four infant deaths under one year of age. Thus:-

	Males	Females	
Legitimate	1	2	= 3
Illegitimate	-	1	= 1
			<u>4</u>

This number of deaths represents an infant mortality rate of 11.5 per 1,000 live births as compared with 29.8 per 1,000 in the preceding year and with a national rate of 23.8 per 1,000 which is the lowest ever recorded in England and Wales. Although with such small figures the rate is subject to wide fluctuation, it is nevertheless satisfactory that there should be so appreciable a reduction compared with the average figure of 32.7 per 1,000 over the last quinquennium.

All four infants died during the neonatal period, that is to say under 4 weeks of age, which is the most vulnerable period. The causes of death were asphyxia of the new born, congenital atelectasis (incomplete expansion of the lungs) and broncho pneumonia. The cause of death in the fourth cases is not known.

- Communicable Diseases -

(1) Prevention - Specific immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, smallpox and poliomyelitis were carried out during the year through Infant Welfare Centres, the School Health Service and by General Practitioners. At infant welfare clinics diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is usually combined. Many general practitioners give a triple vaccine which includes tetanus. At schools, "booster" doses are given against diphtheria on admission to school and at nine years of age so as to ensure the maintenance of immunity at high level.

For the first time in medical history vaccination against poliomyelitis was inaugurated during the year under review. Vaccination was offered to children in the 2 - 10 age group throughout the Area and consent forms were received from the parents of 1,845 children. Owing to delays in the production of the vaccine it was not possible to vaccinate more than 198 of these children during the year, but there is every prospect that the rate of production of the vaccine will be increased sufficiently to cover all requirements. In the meantime the vaccine is earning an increasing degree of public confidence and the demand for protection is rising rapidly.

The number of immunisations carried out in the Area throughout the year was as follows:-

Age Groups	Under 1 yr.	1 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	15 +	Totals.
<u>Diphtheria</u>					
Primary	248	95	52	-	395
Booster	-	-	730	-	730
					<u>1125</u>
<u>Whooping Cough</u>					
Combined with 208 diphtheria.		86	52	-	346
Whooping Cough - alone.	-	-	-	-	<u>-</u>
					<u>346</u>
<u>Smallpox</u>					
Primary	214	33	10	26	283
Re-vacc.	-	5	12	39	56
					<u>339</u>

(2) Notifications - Notifications were received of only 30 cases of communicable disease as against 43 in the preceding year. The notifications comprised one case of scarlet fever, six cases of whooping cough, five of measles, five of dysentery, two of acute pneumonia; four of jaundice, one of puerperal pyrexia and eight of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Measles - It is a rare occurrence for a low incidence of measles to occur in two successive years. As the last epidemic occurred in 1954 it was fully expected that there would be more cases recorded in 1956 and there is reason to believe that the periodic epidemic has merely been delayed.

Whooping Cough - For three years in succession the incidence of whooping cough in the District has been under 10 - 1954 = 3; 1955 = 3; 1956 = 6 - as against 55 in 1953, 55 in 1952 and 31 in 1951. It is impossible to ascribe this improvement to vaccination, but it is generally acknowledged among Medical Practitioners in the Area that such attacks as do occur among those who have been vaccinated are mild and devoid of serious symptoms. In fact difficulty has arisen in several instances, over the

diagnosis, a fact which may delay the seclusion of the cases and consequent spread of infection. Nevertheless, the fact that the severity of the disease has been so appreciably diminished makes vaccination well worth while, and its popularity is still increasing.

Dysentery - Although only 5 notifications of dysentery were received from Medical Practitioners, in fact, the total number of cases found positive to the Sonne' type of dysentery during the year, was 34. Two of the cases occurred in January in Waterden, but the remainder resulted from an outbreak in the Brancaster and Titchwell Parishes mainly in July and in August. The extensive investigations which followed (see Chief Public Health Inspector's Report) led to the discovery of 32 positive cases, some convalescent, some healthy carriers and some with symptoms so mild that no medical advice had been sought. The outbreak was not confined to school children and some of the adult cases were of severe character but of short duration. The fact that this outbreak occurred in parishes which still depend on a pail system of conservancy, emptied at intervals of several days and then scattered over the land, is not without significance and is an indication of the risks to health which the practice involves.

Acute Pneumonia - One case occurred in a child of 4 and the other in a man of 73. The cases were in no way connected or associated with influenzal outbreaks.

Tuberculosis - The situation regarding Tuberculosis in the district at the end of the year is shown in the following Table:-

Age Groups	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary			
	New (1956)		Old		New (1956)		Old	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	(1)	2	1	-	-	2	1
15 - 24	1	-	2	6	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	4 (2)	1 (3)	10	12	-	-	1	2
45 - 64	2	(1)	11	4	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	7 + (2)	1 + (5)	27	24	-	-	4	3 -
() Transfers from outside District.								

In the preceding year there was a total of 10 new cases. Of these 5 were pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary and in either case the proportion was four females to one male. This year the number of local new cases is 8 plus 7 transfers from other districts. It is at least gratifying that no new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were recorded but the fact that eight new pulmonary cases can occur in a relatively small district shows that the disease has not been defeated and that the factors which favour its incidence still exist.

Jaundice - Of the four cases notified, two occurred at Ringstead, one in Heacham and one in Ingoldisthorpe. The cases were unconnected and there was no ascertainable cause.

Puerperal Pyrexia - This was a solitary case which occurred at Snettisham.

Anthrax - 4 cases of anthrax in animals were notified. One occurred in a cow and the remainder in pigs. The possibility of their having been infected through imported feeding stuffs or fertilisers was advanced as a probable cause. It is believed that consideration is being given by the Ministry of Agriculture to the practicability of sterilisation of these imported materials.

Infective Poly-Neuritis - Intimation was received from Norwich of the admission to Hospital of a case of infective poly-neuritis (Guillan Barre's syndrome) in a woman of 34.

Coughs and Colds - Apart from the notifiable diseases, coughs and colds among school children rank high among communicable diseases and during the Autumn a large number of cases were reported by the School Authorities. In some instances the school attendances were reduced by half or more, over a period of several days. Where chronically infected tonsils and adenoids are held to be responsible for repeated colds, cases are referred to Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists through the School Health Service for operative treatment.

- Housing -

As will be noted from the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector (page 14) a further 69 houses were classified as unfit for human habitation during the year in the Docking, Heacham and Dorsingham parishes alone. This figure taken into consideration with the assessments made in other parishes in the District indicates that there are some 134 families living in this type of house (in addition to a distressingly large number living in Category 2 houses).

Although the Council are doing everything within their power and capacity to meet this problem, they could only rehouse 64 families during the year and build 24 houses owing to the restrictions on building subsidies and loans, and there were still 311 applicants on the housing list at the end of the year.

From a public health point of view one cannot regard the situation with satisfaction. Clearly, the prospect of relief for the many people living in substandard conditions must inevitably be remote. It may be argued that, as judged by Vital Statistics, the health of the people is good, although the dysentery outbreak reported under Communicable Diseases should be regarded as a significant indication of the standard of sanitation. But, it should be remembered that Vital Statistics do not reveal the many social problems caused by stresses and strains directly related to poor environmental and crowded conditions. Public health comprises both physical and mental health and we understand more clearly than ever today, how very interdependent they are.

Although it is realised that financial considerations must prevail, I would recommend that no effort be spared to press for relaxation/at the (of res-earliest moment to deal with this serious problem and meanwhile I would trictions advise that perhaps greater advantage be taken of the facilities offered by Improvement Grants to make substandard (Cat. 2) houses better homes. The Council made it possible for 211 houses to be improved by this means during the year at a reasonable total cost of £4,800. It is hoped that much more can be done in this direction.

- Care of the Aged -

Some reference must be made in this Report to the growing problem presented by the longer survival of the population and the necessity for making some provision for those who, through old age or infirmity, are no longer able to "devote to themselves sufficient care and attention". The number of these cases is likely to increase. Action under the National Assistance Act to remove aged persons from insanitary surroundings was in fact initiated in two cases during the year but fortunately did not have to be carried out. These poor old people are naturally reluctant to leave their homes and their surroundings, however unsavoury these may become through neglect and however poorly they manage to nourish themselves. The prospect of an "institution" with its inevitable discipline and regulations, is not pleasing to them, but if they can be offered shelter and care in a colony or community of pleasant, well-designed and well-managed flats or bungalows, they could be moved without distasteful recourse to the National Assistance Act. Some such provision should be included in the building programme of the Council and its extent should be based on a survey of likely requirements in each Parish.

- The "Sanitary Circumstances" of the District -

This term comprises the many factors - housing (already dealt with), water, food hygiene, sewerage and conservancy - now referred to generally as environmental hygiene - which have so important a bearing directly or indirectly on the health of the public. These matters have been adequately dealt with by Mr. Jenkins in his report (at page 13-17) on the work of the Health Department of the Council. It remains for me to comment on the following points:-

a) Food Hygiene - The introduction of the New Food Hygiene Regulations and the very considerable work and responsibility which these have thrown on the small staff of the Public Health Inspectors of the Council. I would also wish to point out the very considerable volume of work involved in meat inspection, when 13 separate slaughter houses and 18 butchers' shops have to be visited regularly in a widely scattered area.

b) Conservancy - An important and welcome advance has been made by the inauguration of a free system of cesspool emptying throughout the District, but one must deplore the fact that in the vast majority of parishes in the District - 23 out of 30 - conservancy is still by means of pails, the contents of which are disposed of by the people themselves. The incidence of dysentery in the District is some measure of the risk to which this practice exposes the people and the sooner means can be devised to abolish the system the better will the public health become.

c) Sewerage - The initiation of the Heacham sewerage scheme is another welcome advance for the reasons adduced in the preceding para.

d) Water Supplies - I am indebted to Mr. Drysdale, the Waterworks Superintendent, for a copy of his report which is appended as Part III of this Report.

It will be noted that Mr. Drysdale estimates that "over 90% of the population" is now being supplied with mains water. On the other hand Mr. Jenkins's estimate is 85% and he also indicated that in many cases, water has to be carried from standpipes over a considerable distance.

Whichever figure is the nearest approach to the situation it is obvious from the very high degree of pollution of well waters (vide Appendix C) that the sooner the entire population can be served with mains supplies and the wells eliminated, the better for the general public health.

APPENDIX A.

CLIMATIC DATA.

	Mean daily Maximum Temp.	Mean daily Minimum Temp.	Mean daily Temp.	Total Rainfall (inches)	Mean Relative Humidity
January	40	34	37	3.33	90.7
February	33.9	25.4	29.7	1.80	88.8
March	48.8	34.7	41.7	0.96	81.7
April	49.0	35.4	42.2	1.31	77.7
May	63.1	44.1	53.6	1.15	70.7
June	60.1	47.8	53.9	3.27	80.2
July	66.1	53.8	59.9	3.61	82.5
August	62.9	48.9	55.9	3.70	83.0
September	64.2	50.4	57.3	1.58	86.5
October	54.3	43.1	48.7	2.54	87
November	46.3	37.6	41.9	1.55	92
December	45.2	38.8	42.0	1.47	91.2

APPENDIX B.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals	
			1956	1955
1. Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	-	-	1
2. Tuberculosis - Other than respiratory	-	1	1	-
9. Other infective diseases	1	-	1	1
10. Cancer - Stomach	2	2	4	8
11. " - Lungs and Bronchi	6	-	6	3
12. " - Breast	-	7	7	4
13. " - Uterus	-	2	2	3
14. " - Other forms	12	11	23	17
16. Diabetes	3	-	3	3
17. Vascular lesions, nervous system	13	15	28	28
18. Coronary disease of heart	18	15	23	20
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2	5
20. Other diseases of the heart	15	23	38	33
21. Other diseases of circulation	5	6	11	8
22. Influenza	-	2	2	1
23. Pneumonia	5	3	8	13
24. Bronchitis	2	2	4	5
25. Other diseases of the Respiratory System	1	1	2	1
26. Ulcers, Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	2	4
27. Gastritis and Diarrhoea	1	-	1	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3	-
29. Enlargement of the Prostate	1	-	1	4
30. Pregnancy and Childbirth	-	-	-	1
31. Congenital malformations	-	1	1	1
32. Other diseases	13	20	33	27
33. Motor accidents	1	-	1	-
34. All other accidents	1	-	1	4
35. Suicide	1	-	1	2
Totals	104	116	220	198

APPENDIX C.WATER SAMPLING.

Report on Bacteriological exams of samples of water taken during year.

Parish	<u>Mains Supply</u>		<u>Private Well Water</u>	
	<u>Satis- factory.</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory.</u>	<u>Satis- factory.</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory.</u>
Burnham Market	-	-	1	1 *
Creake, North	1	-	-	-
Creake, South	-	-	2	2
Dersingham	-	-	-	1 *
Heacham (Hunstanton supply)	16	4 ⁰	-	1
Rudham, East	2	-	-	4 *
Rudham, West	-	-	-	2 *
Fring, Pumping Station	17	-	-	-
Domestic supply	3	-	-	-
Bircham, Pumping Station	16	-	-	-
Brancaster	1	-	-	1
Docking	2	-	-	1
Houghton (Freebridge supply)	4	-	-	-
Ringstead	1	-	-	-
Sedgeford	2	-	-	-
Snettisham	1	-	-	-
Syderstone	1	-	-	-
Thornham	1	-	-	-

* High degree of pollution.

0 See Para 9 (page 16) of Mr. Jenkins's report.

Chemical composition - Mains Water X

Sources of Samples and Dates.	Thornham 10.4.56.	Burnham Thorpe 19.9.56.	Brancaster 4.10.56
Appearance	Clear	Clear	Clear (trace rusty deposit)
Nature of deposit	Zinc comps (a) & veg. matter	Nil	Trace veg. matter & iron comps. (c)
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction	Alk	f. Alk	f. Alk
pH.	7.8.	7.5	7.4
Taste	Satis.	Satis.	Satis.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.03	0.01	0.1
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.02	0.01	0.03
Nitrates	11.	9.5	9.
Nitrites	Very faint trace.	Nil	Nil
Chlorine as Chlorides	28	30	26
Oxygen absorbed	0.12	0.08	0.24
Total hardness	255	265	280
Temp. hardness	205	200	190
Fluorine	0.01 (b)
Iron	0.1	0.05	0.10
Opinion	Fit (a)	Fit	Fit (c)

X Summarised extracts of analyses carried out by Messrs. Lincolne, Sutton and Wood.

(a) "Water contained 3 p.p.m. zinc in solution which is without effect on health but... more than one would expect to find in this type of water..... suggest galvanised pipes corroded..."

(b) "Fluorine content.... very low compared with figures usually obtained for East Anglian public supplies which are in the neighbourhood of 0.1 p.p.m.... The very low figure now recorded may be associated with the observation by the M.O.H. that there appears to be a high incidence of dental caries among school children.... and suggests that fluoridation of this water supply would be in the public interest."

(c) "...The deposit consisted of iron compounds... water found to contain zinc in solution... It appears water is exercising a slight solvent action on galvanised iron pipes. Amounts present not serious and...."certainly would not have any effect on health". This sample was taken before a wash-out hydrant was installed at the end of main supplying the house from which the sample was taken.

PART II

THE REPORT OF

MR. W.B. JENKINS, SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1. Inspections and Visits.

The number of inspections and visits made in connection with the various branches of public health work during the year are as follows:-

Inspections coming within the purview of the Public Health Act, 1936, for abatement of nuisances in connection with water supplies, drainage work, building byelaws, etc.....	453
Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949.....	132
Housing, for repairs, etc.....	116
Interviewing applicants for Council houses prior to reporting to Tenants' Selection Sub-Committee.....	68
Factories Act, 1937.....	16
Milk and Dairies Regulations	7
Food Premises for food inspection, food byelaws and Food and Drugs Act requirements, including ice-cream premises	200
Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops for meat inspection.....	1877
Administration of Public Cleansing Schemes	826
Control of Moveable Dwellings	15
Pests Act, 1949	15
Supervision of Public Conveniences....	75
Slum Clearance	987
Miscellaneous	3

2. Notices.

(a) Preliminary. The following preliminary notices were served requiring the provisions of the various Acts to be complied with:-

Housing Act 1936	30
Public Health Act 1936	52
Milk & Dairies Regulations.....	2
Factories Act 1937	6
Food Hygiene Regulations	78

(b) Statutory. Three statutory notices were served, requiring the provision of a water supply to 8 houses, and repairs to one other cottage.

All notices were complied with.

3. Housing.

(a) Slum Clearance. The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 required all Local Authorities to carry out a survey of houses in their districts to ascertain which houses were unfit for habitation.

In order to obtain a fair assessment of the condition of the houses in the district, it was considered necessary to visit every house, so that a quick preliminary opinion could be formed, and the house classified into one of the three categories being used for the purpose.

The categories used for classification of the houses were as follows:-

Category 1. Houses reasonably satisfactory in most respects and above the general standard for this district.

Category 2. Houses suffering from defects, or lack of amenities, which make them not reasonably suitable for occupation, but which defects or lack of amenities if remedied, would make the houses reasonably habitable for some time to come.

Category 3. Houses suffering from serious defects regarding structure and amenities, which make them unfit for habitation and incapable of being made fit at reasonable cost.

Houses placed in Category 3 required detailed inspection before they could be formally reported on to the Council as being unfit for habitation.

During the year, the detailed inspection of houses in the parishes of Docking, Heacham, and Dersingham was completed, and the following table shows the classification of the houses and the action taken by the Council:-

Parish	Cat.1	Cat.2	Cat.3	Action taken by Council	
				Houses in Clearance	Individual
				Areas	Unfit Houses
Docking	76	184	29	21	4
Heacham	417	264	18	8	7
	(Excluding beach properties and caravan sites, etc.)				
Dersingham	382	152	22	9	4

(b) Housing Act 1949, Improvement Grants. There were 36 applications, formal and informal, received during the year for Improvement Grants.

Grants were made in respect of 16 of the applications; 17 applications were refused and 2 were withdrawn, and one deferred.

The grants given to owners assisted in the cost of improving 21 houses, comprising 17 tenanted cottages and 4 owner-occupied dwellings. The total amount of grants approved was £4,380.0.0., an average of approximately £232.0.0. per house.

An application made under Section 31 of the Act, in respect of 4 Almshouses, has not been included in the above figures.

(c) New Houses. During the year, 24 Council houses and 24 private houses were built.

(d) No. of families housed by the Council = 64
No. of applicants for Council Houses = 311

4. Food Premises.

The estimated number of food premises in the area are as follows:-

Food Shops (grocers etc)	156
Butchers	18
Fish Friers	10
Restaurants and Cafes	16
Licensed Premises	63
Slaughterhouses	13
School Canteens	14

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, are as follows:-

Ice-Cream Premises	66
Meat Preserving Premises	18
Dairies	9

Disposal of condemned food is by burial, either at the premises at which deposited for the purpose of sale, or at refuse tips.

5. Food Hygiene Regulations.

New Regulations, made under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, came into force on 1st January.

The Regulations dealt with the requirements relating to 1) persons engaged in the handling of food; 2) cleanliness of equipment etc; 3) requirements relating to food premises, which include facilities for personal cleanliness, facilities for washing food and equipment, including hot and cold water supplies and sinks, and general structural requirements; 4) requirements relating to stalls, the transport and carrying of meat, and many other matters connected with the supply of clean and wholesome food.

The Regulations apply to premises on which food is handled, sold or stored, and includes canteens, clubs, schools, hospitals and institutions. It is estimated that there are approximately 300 premises in the district to which the Regulations apply.

Inspections of these premises were commenced early in the year, and by the end of the year 78 letters had been sent to occupiers of food shops regarding the non-compliance of the Regulations.

6. Meat Inspection.

Throughout the year, regular visits were made to the 13 slaughterhouses and 18 butchers' shops in the district for meat inspection. Owing to the scattered situations of the slaughterhouses, and the number of days on which slaughtering takes place every week, much of the time of two Inspectors is absorbed by meat inspection duties. Some indication of this is shown by the number of inspections carried out under the heading "Inspections and Visits".

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number inspected	1075	46	1134	2933

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	1	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	103	4	10	51
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	9.6	17.3	0.97	1.07

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	60	Nil	Nil	68
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	5.5	Nil	Nil	2.35

7. Public Cleansing.

(a) Cesspool and Lavatory Pail Emptying. Up till the 31st March, regular pail and cesspool emptying was carried out in the Combined Scavenging Area, comprising the parishes of Heacham, Snettisham, Docking, Ringstead, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy and South Creake. A special rate was levied in these parishes for this service.

On 1st April, a new scheme was put into operation, giving four free emptyings of cesspools a year in every parish in the district; the pail emptying service remaining as hitherto. Special rates were abolished, the cost of the services being borne now by the general rate.

Apart from the seven parishes mentioned, in all other parishes the disposal of nightsoil is carried out by householders themselves. The emptying of pails and cesspools is carried out mainly by direct labour, with the exception of pail emptying in South Creake, Ringstead and Burnham Overy, where contractors are employed. The direct labour force consists of 4 men and 3 vehicles, and regular overtime has to be worked by these men to cope with the increasing amount of work that has to be carried out.

The number of cesspools emptied during the year are as follows:-

Cesspools serving private dwellings, caravan sites, business premises, etc.....	1651
Cesspools serving Council houses	412
Sewage disposal works settling tanks	13

Cost of cesspool and pail emptying service, as allowed for in the 1956/57 estimates = £5,031. 0. 0.

(b) Refuse Collection. The collection of house refuse was continued throughout the year, the rota of collections aimed at by the Council being fortnightly in every parish in the district, with the exception of Heacham, Burnham Market, Ringstead and Burnham Overy, where weekly collections were given. The frequency of collections in those parishes due to receive a fortnightly collection was not maintained. This was due to various reasons reported from time to time to the Public Health Committee. The Committee considered ways in which the service could be improved, but decided to defer taking definite action in this respect until consideration was being given to the 1957/58 estimates. With the exception of Burnham Overy, where a contractor is employed, the work of refuse collection is carried out by direct labour, consisting of 9 men, and 3 lorries in regular use and one as a standby.

The cost of the service as contained in the 1956/57 estimates is £5,961. 0. 0.

8. Sewerage.

Work on the much-needed Heacham sewerage scheme commenced on 1st March. No other work on public sewerage was undertaken, apart from maintenance of the sewer ditches in Snettisham and Rudham. Those at Snettisham, particularly, continued to cause concern owing to the pollution, which showed evidence of being on the increase.

9. Water Supplies.

(a) Public Supply. In collaboration with the Water Department, 76 samples were taken from the Council's public supply. Of these, 71 were reported as being highly satisfactory, 4 were unsatisfactory, and one suspicious.

The unsatisfactory samples were the result of pollution of the Heacham water supply. Remedial measures were taken and the contamination was discovered and the supply restored to normal within a few days.

Provided the catchment area is kept free from any form of pollution, the source of the Docking public supply is a reasonably safe one. As an added precaution chlorination of the water is carried out regularly.

It is estimated that 85% of the householders in the district have access to the mains water supply. However, it cannot be said that in all cases the supply is reasonably accessible, and there are far too many people who have to carry all the water for their domestic needs, in some cases for distances of up to 200 feet.

(b) Private Wells. Fourteen samples of water were taken from private wells; of these 10 were reported as being unsatisfactory, one suspicious, and 3 satisfactory. Where unsatisfactory supplies were found, all necessary action was taken to obtain a satisfactory supply, either by connecting to the mains, or by the sterilisation of the well.

10. Verminous Premises.

Two premises were dealt with during the year for flea infestation.

W.B. JENKINS

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PART III.

THE REPORT OF

MR. J.R. DRYSDALE, WATERWORKS SUPERINTENDENT.

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WATER CONSUMPTION.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Total Quantity</u>	<u>Average</u>
	<u>Pumped and Purchased</u>	<u>Daily Quantity</u>
Great Bircham Boreholes	66,114,000 gallons	181,134 gallons
Fring Boreholes	30,627,000 "	83,909 "
Heacham Bulk Supply	21,883,000 "	59,954 "
Houghton Bulk Supply	470,000 "	1,288 "
	-----	-----
	119,094,000 gallons	326,285 gallons

PUMPING COSTS

<u>Station</u>	<u>Units Consumed</u>	<u>Electricity</u>	<u>Cost per Thousand Gallons</u>
		<u>Total Cost</u>	
Great Bircham	119,235	£483. 3. 11d.	1.75 pence
Fring	49,408	£184. 0. 6d.	1.44 pence

BULK SUPPLY PURCHASES

Heacham	£ 730. 0. 0.
Houghton	£ 37. 10. 0.

	£ 767. 10. 0.

STORAGE

Reservoir, The Mount, Docking.	400,000 gallons
Water Tower, The Mount, Docking.	225,000 "
Water Tower, Docking Village.	330,000 "
Reservoir, Innere.	300,000 "
Water Tower, Heacham.	50,000 "

	1,005,000 gallons

PUMPING STATIONS

(a) Fring The quantity of Water pumped from this Station increased by 1,472,000 Gallons, in addition 2,693,000 gallons were bye-passed to Innere Reservoir via The Mount and Fring Booster Station, representing a total increase in consumption on the Bersingham Scheme of 2,542,000 gallons over the 1955 statistics.

The Pumping Plant at this Station has operated satisfactorily with only minor failures which did not affect consumers, and ordinary routine maintenance.

The recorded Borehole Levels are as follows:-

FRING

<u>Oct 1955</u>		<u>Oct 1956</u>	
Rest Level	7' 6"	Rest Level	16'
Pumping Level	13' 6"	Pumping Level	20'

GREAT BIRCHAM

Rest Level 14' 6"
Pumping Level 27'

Rest Level 20'
Pumping Level 33'

(b) Great Bircham. The Pumping Plant has operated satisfactorily and only normal maintenance has been required with the exception of the Candy Chlorination Plant which has given considerable trouble recently and the manufacturers were called in and are still dealing with this.

Surge pressure tests have been carried out on the rising main and sent forward to the Consultants who have been dealing with this matter with a view to some remedial action being taken.

(c) General. Strict supervision has had to be maintained in the running of all Plant in order to effect as much saving as possible on Electricity charges.

In collaboration with the Public Health Department the following samples from public supply have been submitted for analyses to ensure a wholesome supply.

Bacteriological	76
Chemical	4
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Total	<u>80</u>

Suspected contamination of public supply in Heacham was traced to source, remedial measures taken by my Department was to instal portable chlorination at Heacham storage tank which we continued to operate for some time until all suspicions were eliminated.

DISTRIBUTION.

Main Water supply is available to all Parishes in the district and new supplies continue to be laid which would account for the increased consumption.

It is estimated that over 90% of the population in the Rural District of Docking are now being supplied with mains water.

While all the supplies are not connected to a point inside the dwellings which is impracticable in a number of instances, there are only a very small number of Public Stand-Pipes supplies, mostly in the Dorsingham Scheme (1926) and Docking Scheme (1928) the majority of the properties being served by stand-pipes are not suited either structurally or economically for connecting into.

Minimum flow tests are carried out periodically throughout the District at the numerous Waste Trial Points we have installed with a view to minimise waste and misuse.

NEW SUPPLIES.

New supplies connected during the year are as follows:-

	Domestic	Metered	Special Charges	Total
District Scheme	40	19	17	76
Dorsingham and Heacham	57	12	26	91
<hr/>				
Totals	93	31	43	167
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Several large consumers have been connected during the year involving the laying of 3" mains, also the 3" main on Snettisham Beach damaged during the floods has been relaid where necessary.

A bulk supply has been afforded the Walsingham Rural District Council to supply the village of Tattersett.

Further extensions were carried out for Cholmondeley Estates in the village of Houghton and the work has been completed satisfactorily.

MAINS EXTENSION.

Mains extensions have been carried out as follows:-

High House, Docking - Stanhoe	700 yards
Browns Holiday Camp, Heacham.	250 yards
Mitchell, Malthouse Crescent, Heacham.	70 yards

MAINS AND SERVICES - REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Mains fractures and damages to communication pipes have all been dealt with, with a minimum of inconvenience to consumers.

RESERVOIRS AND WATER TOWERS

Normal maintenance work only has been carried out at Reservoirs and Water Towers with the exception of the automatic control gear situated near the Reservoir, where we have had a few minor cable failures due in the main to dampness, those were rectified and caused no inconvenience to consumers.

Strict control is maintained on the Water Levels in the Reservoirs and Water Towers to enable Pumping costs to be kept to the minimum.

METERS

There are over 400 metered supplies in the District which we are responsible for and normal meter changes on a four year rota are being carried out. For the year ended 31st December, 1956 some 118 meters were changed, tested, overhauled and put back into service, this work is all undertaken by the Water Department Staff.

GENERAL

The Water Committee as such was abolished in May 1956 when the Council considered it was no longer necessary to have a separate Committee dealing with Water supply. The Water Department now operates under the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Strawbridge who was appointed Deputy Superintendent in 1952 resigned from this post in August 1956. After careful consideration by the Council it was agreed not to advertise this vacancy but to re-organise the Department. In re-organising it was decided to abolish the post of Storekeeper-Clerk and advertise for an Administrative Assistant. The person eventually selected to fill this post being Mr. Brain from Stanhoe, who commenced his duties in my Department on the 1st December, 1956.

J.R. DRYSDALE,

Superintendent of Waterworks.

Appendix XIII

Effluent Samples from Housing Site Sewage Disposal Works.

Name of Works.	Date.	Result of Analysis.
Bressingham Common.	2.6.56.	Reasonably Satisfactory.
	8.9.56.	Poor.
	20.10.56.	Good.
Bressingham, Nr. School.	2.6.56.	Good.
	8.9.56.	Satisfactory.
	8.9.56.	Bad.
Brockdish.	20.10.56.	Good.
	2.6.56.	Satisfactory.
Bunwell.	8.9.56.	Good.
	2.6.56.	Reasonably Satisfactory.
Carleton Rode.	8.9.56.	Satisfactory.
	29.6.56.	Very Good.
Fersfield.	8.9.56.	Good.
	2.6.56.	Good.
Fornsett St. Peter.	8.9.56.	Very Good.
	2.6.56.	Bad.
Fritton.	8.9.56.	Bad.
	20.10.56.	Good.
	2.6.56.	Reasonably Satisfactory.
Pulham Market.	8.9.56.	Satisfactory.
	2.6.56.	Reasonably Satisfactory.
Pulham St. Mary.	8.9.56.	Satisfactory.
	2.6.56.	Reasonably Satisfactory.
Roydon.	20.10.56.	Good.
	2.6.56.	Good.
Tacolneston.	8.9.56.	Satisfactory.
	2.6.56.	Bad.
Tasburgh.	8.9.56.	Satisfactory.
	20.10.56.	Good.
Tharston, Chequers Road.	20.10.56.	Good.
Tharston, Fornsett Road.	20.10.56.	Good.
Tharston, Highfields.	20.10.56.	Good.
Thorpe Abbots.	2.6.56.	Satisfactory.
	8.9.56.	Good.
Tibenham.	2.6.56.	Good.
	8.9.56.	Good.
Tivetshall.	2.6.56.	Bad.
	8.9.56.	Reasonably Satisfactory.
Tivetshall, Nr. Star.	20.10.56.	Good.
Wortwell.	2.6.56.	Reasonably Satisfactory.
	8.9.56.	Reasonably Satisfactory.

